

**Amendments to the claims:**

Claims 1-23: (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A method for coating at least one wiper blade element (10) made of an elastomer material, in which first, the surface of the wiper blade element (10) is cleaned and activated by means of a plasma, and then in a CVD process, a coating material is brought into a plasma state and at least one protective coating (64) forms on the surface of the wiper blade element (10), where a high-frequency voltage is applied to the region of the wiper blade element (10) oriented away from the protective layer (64) by means of an electrode plate (56), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein before being brought into a treatment chamber (32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 74), the wiper blade element (10) is cut to a useful length (66) from a profiled band, is placed on ~~an~~ the electrode plate (56, 76) of a merchandise carrier (42), and is subjected to a plasma flow (50).

25. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the treatment steps are executed in a single-chamber or multiple-chamber batch process, with cycle times between 10 seconds and a few minutes.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2 25,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cycle times are between 30 seconds and one  
minute.

27. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4 24,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pretreatment takes place at a pressure of  
approximately 0.1 to 100 mbar.

28. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4 24,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein a thin bonding agent is applied to the wiper blade  
element (10).

29. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4 24,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the coating material, which is activated by means of  
a plasma, is comprised of low-molecular weight, cross-linkable, gaseous  
materials, halogen-containing monomers, silicon-containing monomers, carbon-  
containing monomers, or metal-organic monomers.

30. (currently amended) The method according to claim 6 29,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the alternating-current high-frequency voltage that  
is applied to the electrode plate (56) has a frequency of ten kHz to a few MHz,  
preferably 13.56 MHz, and the power to be coupled-in has approximately one to  
a hundred Watts per cm<sup>2</sup> of electrode surface area.

31. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4 24,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wiper blade element (10) rests with one side of  
the wiper lip (18) against an the electrode plate (76).

32. (currently amended) The method according to claim 8 31,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein two wiper blade elements (10) rest on the electrode  
plate (76), with wiper lips (18) oriented toward each other.

33. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9 32,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein two wiper blade elements (10) with wiper lips (18)  
oriented toward each other, are connected at the wiper lips by means of an  
intermediary piece (78) and are separated after the coating is applied.

34. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4 24,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wiper lip (18) of the wiper blade element (10)  
stands approximately perpendicular to the electrode plate (56), which extends on  
both sides of the wiper blade element (10).

35. (currently amended) The method according to claim 44 34,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the electrode plate (56) engages laterally in  
longitudinal grooves (22, 26) of the wiper blade element (10).

36. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4 24,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the treatment steps are executed sequentially in  
different treatment chambers (32, 34, 36, 38, 40).

37. (currently amended) A device for executing the method  
according to claim 4 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the treatment chambers  
(32, 34, 36, 38, 40) have gas nozzles (52) whose openings are oriented toward  
the wiper lips (18) of the inserted wiper blade elements (10).

38. (currently amended) The device according to claim 44 37,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein one or more gas nozzles (52) are associated with  
one or more wiper blade elements (10).

39. (currently amended) The device according to claim 44 37,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein gas slots (58) are disposed at the longitudinal sides  
of the wiper blade element (10), lateral to the electrode plates (56, 76), and gas  
is aspirated through these slots by a gas pump (62).

40. (currently amended) The device according to claim 44 37,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein gas baffles (54) are disposed in the treatment  
chambers (34, 36, 38, 40, 74).

41. (currently amended) The device according to claim 44-37,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the electrode plate (56, 76) is at least partially  
covered with insulating material (70).

42. (currently amended) The device according to claim 44-37,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the electrode plate (56, 76) is equipped to receive  
one or more wiper blade elements (10).

43. (currently amended) The device according to claim 44 37,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein a number of treatment chambers (36, 38, 40) are  
arranged in a line.

44. (currently amended) The device according to claim 44-37,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein a number of treatment chambers (36, 38, 40) are  
arranged in a closed configuration.

45. (currently amended) The device according to claim 44-37,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the wiper blade elements (10) and the electrode  
plates (56) are disposed on a merchandise carrier (42), which is fastened to a  
transport mechanism (46) for conveying the wiper blade elements (10) from one  
treatment chamber (36, 38, 40, 74) to the others.

46. (currently amended) The device according to claim 22 45,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one treatment chamber (32, 34) is also  
used for the loading and/or unloading of merchandise carriers (42).